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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

'POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION'

—See Page 23.

SEA-BORNE TROOPS HAVE BEEN LANDED ON WALCHEREN.

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LECTURE CCXXII.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN IN GERMANY.

HIMMLER'S TERRORISM.

N44-216-

(*By Christopher Buckley*—(*from the Daily Telegraph*).

What is going on behind that curtain in Germany?

We know that Himmler is organising an internal tyranny, which no longer makes any pretence of basing submission to the Nazi régime on a sense of loyalty, or even hope of future benefits, but only on stark terror. We know that German scientists are working intensively upon the development of new weapons. But, for the rest a blanket of darkness enshrouds Germany and her rulers.

The most significant and most encouraging fact is that active underground resistance to Hitler and Nazi domination is now a reality. Of the details of such an organisation one can obviously say nothing at present; but they do exist, and we are going to hear

more before very long. The most interesting and most significant of these underground forces is known as Edelweiss Pirates. Its peculiar significance, and perhaps its importance for the future, lies in the fact that it is a youth movement, which has grown up inside the ranks of the Hitler Youth, and seeks to destroy the Hitler Youth from within.

Its doctrine is simple: Hitler himself must be eliminated, since Hitler by prolonging the war is thwarting the destiny of Germany. The movement possesses a fund of money and arms, and is said to be strongest in the Rhineland area, though with ramifications in other areas. But what matters most is the fact that they quite clearly separate the person of Adolf Hitler from the destiny of Germany. For young Germans born after 1920, this represents a considerable achievement in independent thinking.

But such movements can hardly of themselves be expected to bring about the overthrow of the whole hateful system. At best they should only be regarded as auxiliaries and advance guards of the more potent arguments of bomb and shell. But while these disaffected organisations do in fact exist in civilian environment, there has been extraordinary little indication of them in the army, if one can judge from the evidence of prisoners. Two out of every three prisoners are perfectly content to be prisoners once they have been brought into our cases.

Yet—and here is a paradox—these will be the same young men who will fight with machine-gun, rifle and grenade with utmost grimness. They will surrender just as meekly and efficiently. What is to be done with a people possessed of such docility? All the same, it is a profoundly weakend Germany which they are leaving. On the west front alone, this summer, Germany has lost at a reasonable estimate one million men—600,000 prisoners, and some 400,000 killed or permanently wounded.

What remains is a Germany dangerously drained of her vital strength, a Germany which, if it still believed in victory, believes in it as a matter of faith rather than of logic. This applies most strongly of all, of course, to the belief in new weapons as yet unlaunched The German will tell you that victory will come through these weapons—but he will repeat it as a child repeats its lessons.

Those in high places in Germany are clearly worrying a good deal about the frequency of desertion by officers in the field in recent weeks. You can strike directly at the civilian worker who absents himself from forced military labour, but a successful deserter is beyond the direct reach even of Himmler. And so a warning is circulated through the army—retaliatory measures against the families of suspected deserters.

There are other stronger methods employed to deter would be deserters. To most of us the imposition of a pledge of loyalty over and above the customary military oath seems odd and superfluous. Not so to the Germans. But Himmler's terrorism will probably prove sufficient, without the addition of supplementary oaths of allegiance and service—that and one last whip-up of nationalistic enthusiasm for the defence of the Fatherland.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

24—10—44 (Tuesday).	Field-Marshal Montgomery steps up his offensive in Western Holland.
25—10—44 (Wednesday).	Red Army begins liberation of *NORWAY* and captures the port of *KIRKENES* in *NORWAY*.
26—10—44 (Thursday).	British troops capture road centre of *VAUGHT* (in *HOLLAND*).
	Jap fleet retires from battle after sustaining heavy losses (58 Jap warships sunk or damaged).
	Allies take *LARISSA* in *GREECE*.
27—10—44 (Friday).	British capture s'*HERTOGNENBOSCH* and *TILBURG* (Holland).
	Americans liberate *SAMAR* in the Philippines.
	Red Army takes *UZHOROD* (Czechoslovakia).
28—10—44 (Saturday).	*BULGARIA* signs armistice with the Allies.
	Yugoslav Patriots liberate the Dalmatian port of *SPLIT* in Yugoslavia.
29—10—44 (Sunday).	Russians free *COP* an important Czec rail junction.
	Britain orders "Stand Down" to Home Guards.
30—10—44 (Monday).	Allies open new offensives in *BURMA*.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

THE WESTERN FRONT—

(1) During the week the operations were mainly confined to Western HOLLAND. The Battle for South-West HOLLAND has been won as well as the Battle for the use of ANTWERP. From this area the Germans are retreating so fast that contact with the enemy has been lost. British troops have crossed the Maas River. South BEVELAND Island has been entirely cleared of the enemy.

(2) **In the Scheldt Pocket.**—Fort FREDERIC, GROEDE and RETRANCHMENT have been taken.

(3) **In the Breda Sector**, TILBOURG (22 miles North-West of ENDHOVEN), VAUGHT (connected with TILBURG by a strategic road), S'HERTOGNENBOSCH, the capital of North BRABANT, OUDENBOSCH, RAAMSDONK, SPRANG and GOES have fallen.

(4) **In the Bergen-op-zoom—Roosendaal Sector**, ROOSENDAAL has been taken.

(5) **In East France** the Germans have been driven from the FORET DE MONCOURT, 20 miles East of NANCY.

(6) **North-East of Epinal**, MORTAGNE and BIFONTAINE have been captured.

(7) **In other regions**, from AACHEN to LUNEVILLE, patrolling activity predominated.

RUSSIA—

(1) The liberation of NORWAY has begun. KIRKENES, an important Norwegian Port has been captured.

(2) **In the Petsamo area**, MAJAKAKA has fallen.

(3) In East Prussia, a gigantic tank and infantry battle is raging. GUMBINNEN, the defence out-post of INSTERBERG is being wiped-out. KOENIGSBURG, the capital is being evacuated.

(4) In Czechoslovakia, UZHOROD, a vital communication centre has fallen.

(5) In the Balkans, the whole of TRANSYLVANIA has been liberated. Yugoslav Partisans have reached ZAGRAH, the capital of CROATIA, and taken SPLIT on the Adriatic coast.

(6) In Hungary, a pincer movement is driving towards BUDAPEST.

ITALY.—With the improvement in the weather the Allied advance on BOLOGNA has been resumed.

GREECE.—LARISSA has been occupied. The report that SALONIKA has been freed awaits confirmation.

The islands of SKOPELOS (off the east coast) of GREECE and PISCOPIA (near RHODES) have been occupied.

The Philippines.—On land, the advance in LEYTE island continues. SAN PABLO (air-field), TABEN, BALUD, BARUGO and CARIGARA have been taken.

SAMAR, another island of the VISYA'S Group North-East of LEYTE, has been occupied together with its capital, CATBALOGAN.

In the Philippine waters, in a renewed raid American carrier-based aircraft probably sunk one enemy heavy cruiser and damaged two others.

In N. Burma.—A new drive has been launched in which Chinese troops have advanced 56 miles along the MYITKYINA Road into Japanese-held territory. MYOT-HIT about 24 miles N. of BHAMO and MOHNYIN on the Mogaung-Mandalay route were occupied. During recent operations, 2,000 sq. miles of N. BURMA have been cleared of the enemy. The Japanese bombed COX'S Bazaar area in BENGAL near the ARAKAN border on Oct. 28. The Japanese News Agency reports an Allied air-raid on TOKYO the capital of JAPAN : the report is dated Nov. 1.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

22—10—44. (Sunday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

Industrial and communication centres of HAMM, MUNSTER, HANOVER and BRUNSWICK.

Objectives in Western GERMANY.

The port and railway centre at NEUSS.

Gun positions and troops along the Italian battle front.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy waters.

FAR EAST.

Targets on the island of LEYTE (Philippines).

Jap shipping off the PHILIPPINES.

Targets on CEBU and BACOLOD.

BURMA.

Jetty and warehouse areas in MOULMEIN.

Jap targets in KENNEDY Peak areas and other parts.

23 10—44. (Monday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Shipping off NORWAY.

Military objectives in Western CZECHO-SLOVAKIA and in MUNICH, AUGSBURG and REGENSBURG areas (Germany).

Targets in the battle areas in HOLLAND and GERMANY.

Enemy supply transports, locomotives and other targets in Northern ITALY.

Enemy shipping in the ADRIATIC.

Air combats all along the Eastern Front (47 enemy planes destroyed).

NIGHT :—

The armament and railway centre of ESSEN.

FAR EAST.

Targets in PARAMUSHIRO and AMAKUTAN Islands (Kuriles).

Jap warships off the PHILIPPINES.

BURMA.

Supporting the ground forces on the TIDDIM Road.

Rivercraft in the CHINDWIN.

24—10—44 (Tuesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Enemy freighters off the NORWEGIAN coast.

Bridges and communications in the PO Valley (Italy).

Road and rail transportation targets in HOLLAND and Western GERMANY.

Gun positions and troop concentrations in the battle areas in HOLLAND.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front.
NIGHT:—
Objectives in HANOVER and Western GERMANY.
Laying mines in enemy waters.
Shipping in the ADRIATIC.
Road and rail traffic in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA.

FAR EAST.

Ground installations, supply dumps and lines of supply in LEYTE (Philippines).
Airfields in Western VISAYAS and Northern MINDANAO.
Jap warships off the PHILIPPINES.
IWOJIMA and VOLCANO Islands.

BURMA.

Enemy positions in the KALEMYO and PINLEBU areas.
Rivercraft on the CHINDWIN.
Objectives in the MYITTHA Valley.

25—10—44 (Wednesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
Railway-yards at HAMM.
Oil-refineries in the HOMBURG-HARBURG area.
Other military targets in N.W. GERMANY.
Industrial targets at BIELEFIELD, MUNSTER, HANOVER and elsewhere in GERMANY.
Chemical works at LEVERKUSEN.
Communications and bridges in the PO River area.
Gun positions in the Italian battle area.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front (37 enemy planes destroyed).

FAR EAST.

Targets on PARAMUSHIRO, MATSUWA, SHUMUSHU and ONNSKOTAN Islands in the KURILES.
Trucks and barges in the Northern PALAU Island.
Jap targets on the MARSHALLS.
The repair and assembly plant at OMURA (Japan)

BURMA.

Enemy positions on the ARAKAN Front.
Rivercraft on the lower CHINDWIN.
Railway sidings at PALEIK.
Targets at YEU.

26—10—44 (Thursday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
No information about any air-raids over Germany.
Communication and other targets in Northern ITALY.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front (19 enemy planes destroyed).

FAR EAST.

Airfields and communications in TIMOR and NEW GUINEA.
Enemy strong points in LEYTE (Philippines).
Jap shipping in the South CHINA Sea.

BURMA.

A railroad tunnel at SEDAW.
Enemy gun positions and troops in KENNEDY Peak area.

27—10—44. (Friday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
Industrial targets in HANOVER, MUNSTER and BIELEFIELD.
Communications, gun positions and other targets in battle areas in HOLLAND.
Bridges in North ITALY.
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front (52 enemy planes destroyed).
NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy waters.

FAR EAST.

A destroyer and a freighter off CEBU (Philippines).
A tanker near PALAWAN.
A village and an airfield in TIMOR.

BURMA.

Communications in Central and South BURMA.
Railway bridge at PYINMANA.
The airfield at KANGAUNG.
The road junction at MINGIN.
Enemy stores and rivercraft in the ARAKAN.
Enemy positions near KENNEDY Peak.

28—10—44. (Saturday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.
DAY:—
Industrial targets at COLOGNE.
Railway road and river transport N.E. of AACHEN.
Railway-yards at HAMM.
Marshalling-yards at MUNSTER.
Gun emplacements on WALCHEREN (Holland).
An aircraft factory at LONGENFURT.
Rail objectives in the PO Valley (Italy).
Shipping off the DALMATIAN coast.
Railways and bridges in the RUHR and the RHINELAND.
Communication system in HOLLAND.
NIGHT:—
Targets at COLOGNE (Germany).

FAR EAST.

The airfield at PUERTA-PRINCESA (Philippines—Palawan area), (23 Jap planes destroyed).
Jap freighters in the BORNEO area.
Other airfields in the South-west PACIFIC area.
Jap positions on the PHILIPPINES.

BURMA.

Enemy positions in the CHINDWIN region.
Dumps in the ARAKAN.
Bridges and railways in Northern and central BURMA.
Enemy airfields in central BURMA.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.

23—10—44 (Monday).

BRITAIN and RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST

American positions on LEYTE (Philippines).

24—10—44. (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

Places in South ENGLAND including the LONDON area.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

American ships landing supplies on LEYTE (Philippines).

25—10—44. (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

Places in Southern ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

American warships attacking the Jap Fleet.

26—10—44. (Thursday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

27—10—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

28—10—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

29—10—44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

SIDE LIGHTS.

DOOMED. Seasons come and go, icy seas in the Arctic, mud and slush in HOLLAND, storms in ITALY, but Hitler's misfortunes show no change, his retreat knows no halt. Allied advance, though slowed down by wintry conditions, persists in every sector, on every front. During the week, the liberation of two more Axis victims has begun, that of NORWAY in the Arctics and of the PHILIPPINES in the Pacific; two more Capitals have been freed—BELGRADE and ZAGREB; one more satellite has signed the Armistice—BULGARIA; and one more country shows signs of internal resistance—AUSTRIA.

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FULFILMENT. On the Allied part, the hour has struck for the redemption of promises made earlier, both to friend and foe. President Roosevelt said two years ago that he would come back to the PHILIPPINES, and he has. BRITAIN promised she would restore GREECE, and she has. Churchill promised to respect the integrity of States, and the Governments of ITALY, GREECE and FRANCE, though still provisional, have been recognised. BRITAIN and AMERICA declared they would beat the enemy whether on land, or at sea or in the air, and have made good their promise. The German armies have been rolled back into their homeland; the largest convoy of merchant vessels has crossed the Atlantic; a half at least of the enemy's largest navy—the Japanese—has been sent to the bottom of the sea, and the *Luftwaffe* has disappeared from the skies, replaced by wandering planes without pilots.

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UNREDEEMED PROMISES. One or two promises, however, still remain unredeemed—the march on BERLIN and the march on TOKYO. But these are also in course of fulfilment. From both east and west, GERMANY has been invaded, and the Allies are on the march towards BERLIN. The resistance at the outer walls, as is naturally to be expected, is hard but these defences are only a crust, and when that is pierced, signs are not wanting that all will be found rotten within. Not all the Home-Guards, not all the shricks of Hitler will save BERLIN. The word has gone forth again, from Churchill and Roosevelt and Stalin, that in unconditional surrender alone the hope of GERMANY lies.

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PORTENTS. If omens have any foundation, the fall of AACHEN is ominous. AACHEN was the seat of a German Empire once, the place where her Emperors were crowned. The fall of AACHEN presages the fall of GERMANY and the fall, for ever, of all German imperial ambition.

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WAYS OF PROVIDENCE. Strange are the ways of Providence. Out of Hitler's own crimes a weapon of his destruction was forged. Hitler destroyed thousands of houses in BRITAIN, not long ago, by air-raids. It is now revealed

that the rubble of the fallen buildings was made into concrete for making the pre-fabricated caissons that were used in building the improvised harbours from which the Invasion Forces landed on the beaches of Normandy and are now stabbing GERMANY.

Here is an incident for the delectation of lovers of the curious.

In the midst of this deluge surging on every side, Hitler, so says the sleek Dr. Goebbels, stands 'like a rock'. But his faith has now been reduced to the making of of toys, 'novel weapons' they are called, and to an untrained rabble called the VOLKSSTRUM.

In contrast, new legions are joining the Allied Armies, already preponderant and overpowering—legions from the liberated lands, from FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, BULGARIA and RUMANIA.

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THE BATTLE OF W. HOLLAND is coming to a close. Signs are visible of a general withdrawal from this area. The Allies have crossed the Maas. The Scheldt pocket has been written off. Sea-borne landings have been made on WALCHEREN Island and the great undamaged port of ANTWERP has become usable. This is the result of the British northward advance in HOLLAND and the capture of key-positions, such as BRESKENS, and FLUSHING which face ANTWERP, of S'HERTOGENBOSCH where all the roads and railways south of the Maas meet, and where the Germans had concentrated 50,000 men, and of VAUGHT and TILBURG, important strategic centres.

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The following extract from the Times of India, Oct. 31, explains the Allied strategy on this front:—

WESTERN FRONT. Activity on the western front was centred in Southern Holland and the Scheldt pocket. At the mouth of the Scheldt the Allies battled with growing success to gain control of the approaches to the great port of Antwerp which, although in our hands, we have not been able to use because it has been covered by the enemy's shore batteries at such places as Breskens and Fort Frederik Hendrik. On the other side of the estuary, there are more gun emplacements at Walcheren and Beveland—and all these threaten shipping bringing reinforcements to the Allied forces in the Low Countries. In the gruelling task of snuffing these batteries good progress was made. Pushing north-west from the line between Watervliet and Hoofdplaat, which they have held for many days, the Canadians captured Breskens and Fort Hendrik. On the north of the estuary, the Canadians consolidated their hold on the neck of the Beveland peninsula—which was the site of a new sea-borne landing by British troops—and penetrated it westwards for a distance of several miles to jeopardise the German forces, about 12,000 strong, in Beveland and Walcheren. Meanwhile, other Canadians moved north from Woendsdrecht, which commands the Beveland causeway, to Bergen-op-Zoom, chasing the enemy before them.

THE SQUEEZE. In Southern Holland, the squeeze on the enemy south of the Maas continued. This had a double object; firstly, to cut off the retreat of the 60,000 Germans in the whole area north of the Belgian border and south of the big rivers which empty into the North Sea; and, secondly, to provide a link-up with Allied armies in the Scheldt pocket. General Dempsey's forces are achieving these objectives, by expanding the corridor established during the critical days immediately following the landing of air-borne troops at Arnhem. This corridor, with its 30-mile base just east of Turnhout on the Belgian border, runs

north-east to Arnhem. General Dempsey's men are fanning out on either side of this corridor. A fortnight ago, they reached the banks of the river Maas after capturing Venraij, Deurne and Venlo. Last week, they they turned to the west and north-west successfully closing in on s'Hertogenbosch, the key communications centre linking Utrecht and Nijmegen. These thrusts from the corridor were supported by attacks from the Antwerp area, one aimed at Breda and the other at Tilburg, which the enemy lost after a fierce struggle. If these drives are followed on the map, it will become immediately clear that the Allies are exerting unrelenting pressure on all the enemy forces between the Turnhout-Arnhem corridor and the North Sea.

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THE EASTERN FRONT. In the far north, the Russian penetration through FINLAND into NORWAY, and the liberation of the important port of KIRKENES in NORWAY have deprived the Germans of the only escape route now open to them from FINLAND. It has enabled King Haakon of NORWAY to call upon his countrymen to join the Allies and drive out the invader. It has reduced the menace to the Arctic supply route from BRITAIN to RUSSIA. The Russian advance in this direction may not go very much farther now amidst the mountains of NORWAY, during the Arctic blizzards.

Though the Finns have not yet declared war on GERMANY, their feelings are embittered, and their attacks on the remnants of German positions in FINLAND have become frequent.

On the E. PRUSSIA front, the Russians are pressing forward in three directions, the most important of which lies before Memel, through the Insterburg Gap. GUMBINNEN, the defence out-post of the Insterburg garrison is being wiped off. Hitler is staking much of his resources on the battle of E. PRUSSIA. He knows that the fate of BERLIN is being decided on the battle-fields of E. PRUSSIA. This is his last eastern bastion, and the defences here reach to a depth of 60 miles with three lines of fortifications. A huge area of the country around has been depopulated, so that the advancing Russians hardly find a civilian here. It is all a huge area of steel and concrete.

On the Hungarian-Yugoslav Front, three co-ordinated drives are proceeding, "a pincer-movement against Slovakia from both the northern and southern sides of the Carpathians; an advance on a broad front *via* the difficult terrain of Southern Transylvania into the open Hungarian plains, and thirdly, an advance into the Moravia Valley on the southern side of the Danube".

The consequences of these triple drives are :—

"Russian armies based on Rumania and Bulgaria are sweeping through across the Balkan Peninsula and, in co-operation with Marshal Tito, should before long have established a new front from the Adriatic, through Northern Yugoslavia *via* Budapest and Slovakia, to the vicinity of Cracow on the north-side of the Carpathians. This front, when established will directly threaten Austria and turn the eastern defences of Germany."

Thus, on a 1,500 mile front, Soviet armies are striking at different key-points converging on the heart of the Reich.

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ON THE ITALIAN FRONT, an arduous double fight proceeds against mud and man. The toil of bringing up supplies in mountain warfare is exhausting. But still, with a perseverance rare in human annals Genl. Alexandar is pushing across the Florence—Forli highway towards BOLOGNA and RAVENNA, the last enemy outposts before the plains of LOMBARDY.

GREECE. Hitler is reported to have decided on abandoning GREECE and the Mediterranean islands. Well he may; but as the saying is, and as Mussolini experienced before, he has caught a Tartar, and the problem for him is how to get out. 23,000 Germans are isolated in Crete, Rhodes and the remaining Aegean islands. 20,100 Germans from GREECE and ALBANIA are said to have assembled on the Albanian frontier wishing to break through towards SARAJEVO. To SARAJEVO, other German forces have come from BOSNIA, HERZEGOVINA, the SANDJAK and MACEDONIA. The problem for them all is how to get back to GERMANY.

Meanwhile, the liberation of GREECE is proceeding apace. The latest town to be freed is LARISSA.

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THE NAVAL BATTLE IN THE PHILIPPINE WATERS. More details are now forthcoming of the smashing defeat that the Japanese fleet has suffered in the Philippine waters. 'Not only defeated and seriously damaged but also routed' is the report. In MacArthur's opinion, the defeat is 'crushing.' According to Admiral E. J. King, C-in-C, U. S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations, 'the Japanese Fleet has been reduced to not more than a half.' However that may be, the operations have damaged the Japanese security in the Pacific beyond hope of recovery. On receiving the news, TOKYO broadcast. 'The war situation cannot be viewed with optimism. The situation has taken a serious turn. The Americans are pouring in reinforcements at a rapid rate'. There have been hurried meetings of the Japanese Privy Council, of the Cabinet Council and of the Production Societies. A further shake-up of the Japanese Cabinet which was only recently reconstituted, is likely, with Prince Konoye, who opposed the Tripartite Pact, as new Premier.

Meanwhile, the victory has incidentally helped Roosevelt in his election campaign. The men who said that Roosevelt had not done enough to accelerate the Pacific war must now see themselves mistaken.

We now know more details of the attacks on the Japanese fleet, which we summarise below:—

On October 23, two enemy forces were sighted, one south of MINDORO (PHILIPPINES) in the Sibuyan Sea. This was attacked repeatedly by aircraft. The second force was also sighted on the same day in the Sulu Sea, S. W. of Negros Island. Two battle ships in the force were bombed. A third force was located on the same day S. E. of Formosa coming from home-waters.

On Oct. 24, the enemy forces were brought to action and attacked by aircraft, surface-ships and submarines of the Pacific Fleet. The Japanese forces withdrew, hotly pursued.

According to the report of Admiral Chester Nimitz, C-in-C. of the Pacific Fleet, over 58 war ships were either sunk or damaged off the PHILIPPINES; and these figures are still subject to revision. Of all the enemy ships which took part, not more than possibly two escaped destruction or damage.

In renewed raids at the week-end, 3 more ships were attacked, a cruiser in MANILA harbour was sunk, another was damaged and a third was hit off Cavite. In these operations, 90 aircraft were destroyed.

THE LAST LAP—CAUTION. We shall end on a note of caution. We have reached the last lap but the battle is not yet won.

Mr. Churchill reminded the House of Commons of this on Saturday last:—

"The present stage of the war is dour and hard, and the fighting must be expected on all fronts, to increase in scale and intensity.

"We believe we are in the last lap, but this is a race in which failure to exert the fullest effort to the end may protract that end to periods almost unendurable to those who now have the race in their hands after struggling so far.

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ENEMY'S HOPES. "The enemy has two hopes. The first is that by lengthening the struggle he may wear down our resolution. The second and more important hope is that division will arise between the three great Powers by whom he is assailed, and whose continued union spells his doom.

You would not expect three great Powers so differently circumstanced as BRITAIN, the U. S. and SOVIET RUSSIA not to have many different views about the treatment of various and numerous countries into which their victorious arms have carried them.

"The marvel is that all has hitherto been kept so solid, sure and sound between us all, but this process does not arise of itself, it needs constant care and attention.

"There are those problems of distance, occasion and personalities which I have so often mentioned to the House, and which make it extremely difficult to bring the heads of the three principal Allies together in one place at one time.

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THE WANDERING MINSTREL. "I have therefore not hesitated to travel from Court to Court like the Wandering Minstrel, but always with the same song to sing, or the same set of songs."

HITLER'S CALL TO RESISTANCE

"ADMISSION OF DEFEAT"

(From the Manchester Guardian).

Hitler's proclamation to the German people marked a profound change in the attitude of the Nazi Government towards the war.

For the first time in a German official announcement, there is no promise of victory. Instead there is implicit the realisation of defeat. "We must succeed", states Hitler, "in driving back the hostile forces and keeping them clear of the German Reich, until a peace is guaranteed which safeguards the future of Germany and her allies, and thereby Europe". There can be only one interpretation to these words. It is a declaration that the Nazi Government, aware that it can no longer win the war, is prepared to consider a negotiated peace. Until recently, such a statement by any Nazi leader would have been impossible. In his recent speech in West Germany, Goebbels, while warning his audience of the coming invasion, still ended with the call: "Victory will be ours". In his latest article in *Das Schwarze Korps*, Himmler envisaged an Allied occupation, but still held the hope that resistance inside Germany would "help to gain time for a new German victory." In his last public speech in July, after the revolt of the Generals, Hitler said that in spite of everything he was still "filled with confidence", and that the Germans would "emerge victorious at the end of this war." But now there is no

mention of victory, and in its place has emerged the fatal word "peace". It is no longer a question of gaining time until new weapons can be brought into action, but of keeping the Allies out of Germany until a peace is guaranteed which will safeguard the future of Germany. It is in fact an admission of defeat.

Even so, there is no sign of weakening, either in Hitler's proclamation or Himmler's speech which was broadcast at the same time. On the contrary, it is a call to even more desperate resistance. Every German man between the ages of 16 and 60 "able to carry a weapon" (and that as we already know includes the halt and the lame) is to be mobilised in a new German army to be called "Volks Sturm"—something between the French Forces of the Interior and the British Home Guard. This army will be directed by Himmler and Bormann, raised by Gauleiters and run by the Party; it will, therefore, strengthen still further the frantic grip of the Nazis on the German people. We have a spectacle of 80,000,000 people being driven towards their own destruction.

"GERMANY NEARER HER DOOM."

HIMMLER'S VAIN HOPES.

(From The Times).

The new position of Himmler as the autocrat of the German home-front has thrust upon him the comparatively unfamiliar part of a popular orator: hitherto he has been better known for compulsion of brutal deeds than of persuasive words.

His recent speech in East Prussia was an exhortation to forlorn hope, and an appeal to old men and children to oppose their immature or failing strength to the swelling tide of Russian advance. The historic allusion on which he relied to encourage his hearers was singularly inappropriate. He invoked the memory of the great Battle of Leipzig in 1813, apparently relying on the ignorance of his audience, that in that battle it was France that stood alone against a continent in arms, having been already severely defeated on the western front of the peninsula and the eastern front in Russia, whereas victorious Prussia was merely one ally in a "Battle of Nations" which was largely won by Russian troops.

Germany to-day is in the position of France then, though without Napoleon and nearer her doom. For the rest, Himmler paraded the old excuses for the successive German aggressions, and what are now scarcely less threadbare, explanations for their visible failure. If there was anything in the desperate farrago that could convey a grain of factitious comfort, even to those who took Himmler's assertions at his own valuation, it was no doubt to be extracted from his insistence that the Allies require to win the war before the onset of winter, if they are to win it at all. That is a line of argument that is usually reinforced with dark prophecies about secret weapons yet to be revealed. There can be few, even among the Germans, who can much longer fail to perceive its fallacy.

It is true that the Allies, on every motive of humanity and concern for the trembling foundations of civilised life in Europe, most fervently desire to spare mankind the horrors of a sixth winter of war. Even if, however, the end were to be deferred it would be none-the-less certain. Next spring, the relative superiority of Allied to German power would be even greater than it is to-day. When Germany will be defeated may still be open to speculation, but that she shall be defeated, and totally defeated, admits of no question whatever.

RUSSIAN PAUSE BEFORE WARSAW.

STRATEGIC REASONS.

(*By Lieut.-General Sir Douglas Brownrigg*).

There are more ways of stopping an army than by standing in its path.

Soldiers are nearly always sensitive to a threat to their flank, and many an army has been compelled to halt whilst a potential danger to one or the other flank has been dealt with.

The Russiun pause for two and a half months in front of Warsaw is an example which deserves more attention than it has received. What are the facts?

During the month of July the Red Army advanced on a frontage of about 600 miles, and to a depth, in some places, of about 250 miles. The centre of this advance came opposite the outskirts of Warsaw, only 300 miles in the direct line from Berlin, with fine weather and good going in prospect. Yet that army is still facing Warsaw. It is easy to bring forward supply difficulties as the reason, and it is true that they may have had some dragging effect on the operations after a month of rapid progress over a comparatively derelict countryside. But the real reason goes far deeper. It was strategic and not administrative.

The Germans had large forces located in East Prussia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with secure sea lines of communication behind them running back to Germany from the ports of Konenigsberg, Riga and Tallinn (to mention only the most important). Now these big German forces constituted a threat to any Russian advances west of Warsaw. The Russian High Command was not prepared to accept the risks of a further advance in the centre until the situation on the right flank had been cleared up.

So the armies opposite Warsaw and along the Vistula were ordered to consolidate their gains and make good their bridgeheads, whilst those further north were re-grouped for a full-scale offensive against the Baltic States. That offensive has now been almost completely successful and the clearing of East Prussia will be the next task. Then will the way be open for a great western surge.

It may be thought that the Russians showed too much concern about their right flank, having regard to the the sweeping victories which brought them so far in a single month. But it is interesting to recall that Hitler, when at the height of his power, showed equal apprehension about an uncovered flank. When he had been foiled in his attempts to invade Britain he turned east and cast his eyes upon the Balkans, Turkey, Persia and even India. But he feared to leave his left flank open to assault from a friendly, but potentially dangerous, Russia. So in June, 1941, he treacherously attacked Russia, so as to clear his left flank for his march to the East, but he failed. The Russians however, are succeeding on the Baltic coast.

It is curious to reflect that two of the greatest German disasters in the earliear days were attributable to Hitler's inability to sense the right moment to order retirement. Rommel was left out too long at El Almein, and so was Paulus at Stalingrad. Yet such success as Hitler has had now in gaining time to form some sort of defensive line in Holland along the frontier of Germany, has been almost entirely due to leaving his coastal garrisons to hold all ports to the bitter end. Similarly, the delay caused to the Russians has been largely due to the sacrifice of troops in the Baltic States.

Time alone will show whether these new sacrifices have been worthy of the cost to Germany—although nothing will alter the fact that the disasters of Stalingrad and

Tunisia were the result of Hitler's dread of admitting that he had suffered a check. However that may be, the loss of his coastal garrisons has left Hitler very short of trained formations with which to hold his Siegfried defences. In many places, his troops consist of battle-groups, 600 to 700 men strong, made up from remnants of the battered Seventh and Fifteenth armies, and from the newly enrolled and partially trained drafts of very old and very young men, scratched together in Germany by Himmler and stiffened by the S. S. and Hitler Youths. Such battle-groups can be quite stubborn in defence, but their powers of counter-attack are very limited. Indeed, in a retreat they would soon become a shambles.

THE MOSCOW TALKS

BRITISH PRESS COMMENTS.

1. The Times.

Invaluable work has evidently been done during the ten days of intensive discussion which have occupied the Allied statesmen. For full co-ordination of strategy and policy, and for the resolution of any current difficulties, there can be no substitute for "a free and intimate exchange of views", which the visit has made possible. That certainly, as his practice has shown, is Mr. Churchill's strong conviction and all the results have proved its validity. The country has special reason to be grateful to him for having been willing, almost immediately on his return from the second Quebec Conference, to initiate what could only be at this season of the year a physically arduous and exacting journey.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

2. The Daily Telegraph.

It would be easy, but not very profitable, to speculate on the nature of "the many political questions of common interest" on which there was "free and intimate exchange." The significant facts are that the range of topics was wide, and that the ten days devoted to their review afforded the British and Russian leaders ample opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of each other's mind and standpoint.

HOPEFUL AND CONFIDENT.

3. The News Chronicle.

From one communiqué it is clear that in every respect the Moscow talks have been highly and hearteningly successful. Its very phrasseology breathes hopefulness and confidence, and confirms the report of an atmosphere of friendliness and cordial co-operation in which the talks have been conducted- Its message of cheerfulness and friendly collaboration will raise the spirits of everyone in all the United Nations.

TWO YEARS OF ALLIED SUCCESSES

(*From the Times*).

Two years ago the Eighth Army launched its counter-offensive against the forces of the Axis in North Africa.

The battle of El Alamein, a fierce 12-day struggle which began on October 23, was a turning point of the war. It might be termed the turning point. It was the first major and decisive battle lost by the Axis in Europe or Africa, and the herald of a succession of Allied victories in Africa, in Russia, in Italy, in Western Europe, in the Baltic and in South-East Europe.

Field-Marshal Montgomery addressed a message on October 23 to his old comrades of the Eighth Army. As he points out, the men who fought at El Alamein are now scattered all over the world. Some men are with him in the west. Some still serve in the Eighth Army under the most outstanding of his former lieutenants in the army. Some are engaged in the east against the Japanese, and there they are based on India or Australia, countries as far apart as India is from Libya.

Wherever they are, they have further hard tasks and further sacrifices before them. The road back is a long one and barred by many obstacles. In many respects, the recent progress—which includes the sensational advances of the Russians, the liberation of virtually the whole of France, the American advance towards Japan in Central Pacific and just lately the successful invasion of the Philippines—has been more rapid than the boldest ventured to foretell, and yet there is no front on which the going has yet become easy or the defences of the foe are cracking.

It often occurs in a war that the last ridge proves to be the most difficult of all to carry, and the demands which must still be made may prove to be even heavier than those which were called for at El Alamein. But whereas victory then meant only a way out of adversity and the first step towards more prosperous times, victory to-day brings closer an end which is in full view. The spirit of El Alamein is needed now as much as it was then; but its rewards will be even richer.

ALLIED POLICY TOWARDS GERMAN PEOPLE.

"PENALTIES STERN BUT NOT REPRESSIVE"

(From the Daily Herald).

"We do not want vengeance, but we do not want Germany treated in such a way as will encourage a third World War". In those words, Sir Walter Citrine crystallised one of the major issues facing this year's T. U. C.

The essence of the issue was: Should the German people be absolved of all responsibility for the calamities of the past five years? Should we blame only the office holders in the Nazi Government, and hold them solely to account for the bloodshed, tortures and atrocities? By an overwhelming vote, the Congress has decided against such a policy. If we have any hope of revival of democracy in Germany, that hope cannot be enhanced by commiserating with the German nation on its failure to uphold democratic principles.

The German nation must be made to realise that having contributed so richly to the advance of science and arts, it has nevertheless failed humanity. It excelled in the laboratory. It soared in the composition of music and poetry. The massive ability of German scientists and composers has enormously enriched civilisation. But the struggle of the democratically-minded sections of German opinion has lagged behind the progress of the nation's intellectual spokesmen. Popular will has lacked political skill and resolution. Cheap-jack adventurers have not merely flouted the genius of a great breed, but directed that genius into courses of arrogance, and self-deception and brutish nationalism.

It is the democratic peoples who have become in these past five years trustees of what was best in the German legacy of intellectual achievement. It is we who have fought for the preservation of those which inspired German art and science—while the German people appeared to accept the composer of the Horstwessel Song as equal to

Beethoven, and the manufacturer of bombs as logical partner to the constructive scientist.

So there must be penalties for the German people—penalties, of course, which will distinguish between them and their Nazi leaders, but penalties recognisable and stern. The Germans, as a whole, must not be allowed to get away with the idea that so large and cultivated a community can fail democracy without incurring blame. Their inferiority complex, so useful to Hitler and his predecessors, and so valuable to his potential successors, must not be stimulated by an Allied policy which is solely repressive.

LARGEST OCEAN SUPPLY CONVOY.

SUCCESS OF ANTI-U-BOAT MEASURES.

(*Daily Telegraph*).

A fleet of 167 merchantships—the largest ocean supply convoy that has ever been launched—has arrived in British ports of destination without the loss of a single vessel. The passage of this great body of shipping, which spread as it moved over an area of some 26 square miles, took 17 days.

Its immunity may be claimed as reward, indeed, for the immense and many-sided effort that has been devoted to the countering of U-boats. Most of that work, of incessant vigilance, and tireless hunting, has gone unchronicled, but its effects have been cumulative.

The crippling of the enemy's use of the vital U-boat bases at Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire has also had much to do, no doubt, with the making of such a remarkable feat of convoy feasible; but it is very far from having put an end to the menace. Mr. Alexander adds a warning against easy optimism. There are still U-boats about in the old hunting ground; and Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt, in their joint statement on submarine warfare during September, referred to the possiblity of a renewal of the enemy's offensive in autumn with new types of U-boats. There is still vital need of watchfulness and pursuit, if the sea-lanes are to be kept safe; for there has been nothing easy about this triumphant bringing to port of over one million tons of seaborne supplies.

"WINSTON PORT" RISES FROM THE SEA.

INSIDE STORY OF NORMANDY LANDINGS.

(*By A. J. McWhinnie*).

Now that the news of how the great British prefabricated ports were assembled on the beaches of Normandy has been released, I can tell for the first time the inside story of the triumphant organisation which got those giant girders and great concrete breakwaters from Britain to France.

A British destroyer—H. M. S. *Versatile*—became the headquarters ship of what the admiral in charge of the operation described as "the strangest brood that ever put to sea". I sailed with the *Versatile* on several trips in which she had a roving commission across the Channel and off the Normandy beaches, keeping a watchful eye on towing and placing operations.

Before we left England, the *Versatile's* young commanding officer addressed his ship's company. "You will see some strange sights during the next few days", he said,

"stranger sights than you would ever expect to encounter at sea. Don't be surprised if there are times when you see something like a Tower of London floating to starboard of us, something like a block of flats or a warehouse floating to port. Soon you will know what it all means. But, in the meantime, I pledge you to the closest secrecy. When you get ashore, keep a tight hold on your silence. On the strange things you are about to encounter, the whole future of the Western Front depends."

We had not been under way long before the men of the *Versatile* were scanning the horizon, peering at strange objects being taken in tow. Even then, as they watched mammoth girders and great concrete domes being pulled across to France, some of the ship's company were hazarding strange guesses about it all. I heard seamen saying among themselves: "I'll bet we're going to build a bridge across the Channel". The captain smiled. "If these men are baffled," he said, "I wonder what the Germans are thinking?"

Over on the French side of the Channel, we watched 500,000 tons of ships—famous men-o'-war and freighters being purposefully sunk to form breakwaters. There was the 32-year-old battleship *Centurion*. There was the French *Courbet*, also 32 years old. Then there was the stripped hulk of the Dutch cruiser *Sumatra*; there was the old British cruiser *Durban*.

Down in the ward-room of the destroyer, some one turned the radio on to a German station. A German news reader was just announcing that battleships and freighters in large numbers were being sunk off the Normandy beaches "by *Luftwaffe* and other German defences."

Into the lee of those sunken blockships off Arromanches went a series of caissons. Some of them had sailed from the Thames on D-Day, towed at four knots. Others had come round from the more northern ports and rivers. All carried specially picked crews. All were mounting anti-aircraft guns.

We switched on to the German radio again. "The Allies", said the announcer this time, "have landed as we intended they should. But they cannot get possession of a port to reinforce and supply those who have landed. They will get no port. They cannot get anything greater than a thin trickle of supplies ashore on to the sandy beaches. Those who have landed are caught in the German trap"

They did not know that the Allies were working on the greatest engineering feat in history, and had it all planned to land at a single prefabricated port something like 12,000 tons of supplies and 2,500 vehicles daily. Look at some of the figures involved in this master plan for landing—and staying—in France. There had to be 24,000 feet of breakwaters as a beginning. Thirteen miles of piers and cause-ways went to sea in 480 feet sections. One million and five hundred thousand tons of artificial harbours and floating breakwaters, with steel support or buttress structures, were towed across the Channel in heavy weather, past shoals, minefields, E-boat lanes and U-boats. One hundred and fifty tugs pressed into service from ports and harbours far afield were used for the greatest towing job in history.

And despite the worst Channel gale for 50 years, the sandy beaches of Arromanches were converted speedily in days into a first-class port, bigger than Dover which took seven years to build.

Over the radio, the German people were still being assured that there were no suitable unloading places for the Allies. They could do nothing but fail, unless they had

the use of Le Havre, Cherbourg, Dieppe or Calais. "And", said the German announcer with conviction, "they will never get those ports".

The truth is that but for the British prefabricated port, those other ports of Calais Dieppe, Cherbourg and Brest might still be in German hands.

Meanwhile, all over Britain, there are hundreds of thousands of skilled and proud workmen and women who helped to construct those secret ports, telling how even they had not known exactly what they were working on.

The Navy started calling Arromanches "Port Winston". Mr. Churchill had guided the master plan through to success. Perhaps one day the people of France will rename Arromanches "Port Winston". In any case there might one day be a plaque erected there with these words: "Piers for use on the beaches. They must float up and down with the tide. The problem must be mastered. Do not argue the matter." Mr. Churchill wrote those words to his prefabricated port-experts.

That was the spirit in which Britain went to work, achieving the seemingly impossible—to erect a port on the sandy beaches within a few days, a port capable of unloading sufficient troops, tanks, guns, lorries, ammunition, and food supplies in order to liberate Europe.

STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL BOMBING.

MERGING OF TWO AIMS.

(By Wing Commander L. V. Fraser).

Duisburg reveals the power of the new undivided Allied bombing offensive. The attack was with a double purpose. Already, during the main Allied bombing offensive which began at the start of 1943, the Germans have known worse bombing than any other country has endured. Yet compared to what is now happening in the air, that experience can be described as only a foretaste.

To all intents and purposes, Western Europe has been cleared by the advance of the Allied armies of bombing targets, and the concentration of these within Germany alone has more than doubled in one month the capacity of Bomber Command and the Eighth Air Force to hit that country. That is strikingly illustrated by recent R. A. F. Bomber Command statistics.

During September, aircraft of that Command alone dropped 52,400 tons of bombs, and of this total less than half—21,000 tons—fell on targets inside Germany. The greater part of the balance was expended in the rapid capture of Le Havre, Boulogne and Calais. Enormous bomb loads had to be dropped on the strong fortifications and defensive belts which the Germans held around each of these Channel ports in France, as well as around the long range guns at Cap Gris Nez. If R. A. F. Bomber Command were to drop during this month only the same weight of bombs as during September, but with all of it concentrated on targets in Germany, then the Reich would receive more than twice as heavy a bombing assault this month.

Actually, with one half of October gone, the tonnage dropped by Bomber Command is at a heavier rate than in September. Between October 1 and 16, bombs dropped weighed 30,535 tons, and of these 12,335 tons fell between October 14 and the night of October 16—17 in raids almost entirely on Germany.

The only big October target so far for Bomber Command outside the borders of Germany itself has been German defensive positions on the Dutch island of Walcheren, from which the enemy has been denying the Allies the use of the port of Antwerp.

These figures, moreover, relate only to R. A. F. Bomber Command. An equally violent assault from the air is being carried out against targets in Germany by the U. S. Eighth Air Force. In addition to that, enormous numbers of medium and light bombers of fighter-bombers and rocket-fighters—forces of the R. A. F. Second Tactical Air Force and the Ninth U. S. Air Force—are now assembled on the fringes of the Reich and striking with great power at its western provinces.

It is difficult even to visualise what this stupendous bombing assault must mean. Yet there have been some clues to an appreciation in the past month and a half. The actual military effect of bombing around the French Channel ports in September, for instance, was that they fell with remarkably few casualties to the Allies, and we took about 50 German prisoners for every casualty of ours.

The September attacks by Bomber Command on targets inside Germany, made with less than half of the Command's full effort for the month, devastated wide areas of six large towns—Kaiserslautern, Karlsruhe, Bremerhaven, Munchen-Gladbach, Osnabruck and Darmstadt. Large areas of devastation were also left in Emden, Munster, Kiel and Frankfurt.

Moreover, the tactics of bombing have so improved this summer that comparatively small forces numerically have been able to do as much damage as much larger forces a year ago. Almost the whole of Darmstadt, an important railway town and centre of the enemy's chemical industry, was destroyed in one attack by some 200 Lancasters.

Another happy improvement is that now Germany has lost much of the territory from which her advance warning system worked, so that approach over what was enemy territory leads straight into unprepared defences, and Allied bomber casualties are at present at about a quarter of the rate suffered in the past.

R. A. F. Bomber Command came into October, therefore, with three vital factors in their favour. Most of their targets were by then within the German homeland. Smaller numbers of bombers had learned how to do a greater amount of damage. There was reasonable hope that casualties would not be unduly heavy.

There was a fourth favourable factor, and the most important. Frequently a strategical and tactical objective had merged into a single target. One bombing attack could do two jobs. It could strike yet another of the many blows Bomber Command has dealt to Germany's long-term war potential, while at the same time striking in tactical support of Allied armies fighting on the border of the Reich.

Of such kind was the great double attack on Duisburg, which was launched on October 14. Nearly 10,000 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped by Bomber Command in a single day and the subsequent night on Duisburg—the heaviest air attack yet in the history of warfare.

The 10,000-ton attack of October on Duisburg was designed not only to reduce German production of major war industries, but because the town is (or was) a vital centre of railway and river communications, only about 35 miles behind the battle frontline and 50 miles from both Aachen and Nijmegen.

The attack was thus both tactical and strategic. Such great damage to railways and docks is bound to dislocate the flow of supplies to the German armies at the front, and at the same time, in the same assault and with the same bombs, large engineering components of over-all German war production were paralysed.

Duisburg has been the climax so far, but it was preceded by other targets, bombed with a similar double object. Saarbrucken, previously a strategic target, as the largest

town in the Saar coal basin and the centre of the steel industry, was attacked on October 5, because it was by then also packed with military equipment and troops essential for the German front.

So the pattern comes to fulfillment. Targets of the Allied forces are concentrated in Germany; strategical aims and tactical are blending; and Allied heavy bomber forces, the mightiest the world has known, are engaged in their long-dreamt task—to hit Germany alone.

ALBANIA.

(Mediterranean Review).

Among the first victims of Fascist vandalism was Albania, the tiniest state of the Balkans, which represents a surviving outpost of Turkish influence in Europe. This Muslim country, ruled by the Muslim King Zog, has an area of only 11,000 square miles, the size of Palestine or half that of Ceylon, and a population of 1½ millions. Pastoral and agricultural occupations are found together in this country of lofty hills and fertile valleys.

The Albanians, economically speaking, are among the poorest people of the Balkans, but are hardy and freedom-loving. The River Skumbi is considered a dividing line between two cultures; the north is Turkish, with Sunni Muslims in the plains and towns and Roman Catholics in the hills; in the south, the Greeks have left their mark and the Christian minority is Greek Orthodox. The tribal north is dominated by influential clans like the four sections of the Mati, to which King Zog belongs, and the "Five Banners" of the Scutari hinterland; the south is the land of great landlords.

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

The perfidious nature of the Italian attack of April 9, 1939, on Albania becomes clear when one recalls that Mussolini went to Tirana shortly before, to become Godfather to King Zog's son. Maj. Abbas Kupi put up a short and futile resistance against the Italians at the port of Durazzo where the invaders had landed. Although organized resistance was overcome very soon and the army disbanded, the Albanians continued resistance as "guerilleros". The second invasion came when the Germans under Gen. Brauchitsch poured in on their way to Greece (April 1941).

According to various reports, there are from 30 to 50 groups of guerillas operating in Albania. Maj. Atlee in a statement to the Commons made some time ago said that there were three large organizations, in the north, the centre and the south. The most influential is the National Liberation Movement in the south. It has superseded the original resistance movement called the Balkanbetar or National Front, which operates in the south. In the centre is the Legality Movement led by Maj. Abbas Kupi, who is a royalist.

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS LIBERATIONS.

Unification of the various guerilla bands began after the encouraging joint statement by Mr. Eden, Mr. Hull and M. Molotov "admiring and appreciating the efforts of the various guerilla bands operating against the common enemy, and wishing to see Albania liberated from the Italian yoke and her independence restored". On hearing this, representatives of various parties gathered in Dec. 1942 at a village (now called Peza) 10 miles, S. W. of Tirana and as a result of the efforts of Peza, coordination was achieved.

Four important groups have placed themselves under his command; other important leaders are Col. Muharram Baijaktari, an ex-officer of the gendarmerie; Prof. Dr. Safed Bukti of Tirana and Baba Faja, the fighting Abbot of the Dervish Monastery at Martan.

There have been three stages in the coming liberation of Albania—first, the unification of resistance, then the landing of a British Military Mission under Brigadier Frank Davies in 1943, and third, the landings on Sept. 27, 1944, of the Land Forces (Adriatic) which bids fair to consummate the process of the liberation of Albania from the yoke of the Germans under Gen. Fehn. The port of Sasena is being fought for, and the port of Saranda was liberated by commando units on Oct. 11. The German evacuation of southern Greece and the Russian advance into Yugoslavia will accelerate the process of liberation.

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S RETURN TO PHILIPPINES.
"A GREAT DAY FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE"

(*From the Daily Telegraph*).

The struggle will be hard because much more than the liberation of the Philippines is involved. The effect of losing those islands will be felt by half a million Japanese soldiers from the Arakan to Borneo in the severance of their supply lines, and by the whole Japanese nation in the stopping of the reverse flow of oil, food and raw materials to Japan herself.

The really significant disclosure of the attack on Leyte is the tremendous strength to which the American fleet has been raised; and incidentally, the simultaneous bombardment of the Nicobars by a British squadron discloses the arrival of a powerful British navy also in the Far Eastern waters.

At the opening of this momentous battle, the achievements which made it possible must not be forgotten. The expedition started from New Guinea, and could never have done so but for the arduous campaign there in which the Australians and the Americans reduced a once strong Japanese army to a militarily negligible remnant. It was preceded by a tremendous air attack, which could never have been delivered if the Americans had not edged steadily across the Central Pacific making good their hold on base after base until they got within easy striking distance, or if they had not estblished those bases in free China from which Super-Fortresses joined in the massacre of Japanese aircraft and shipping.

General MacArthur left the Philippines with a few companions and a couple of motor launches. He returns with armies and sea and air fleets capabls of challenging the main forces of Japan. It is a great day for him and for all the American people.

OSMENA OF THE PHILIPPINES.

(*From the Madras War Review*).

The political careers of Osmena and Quezon had been linked since the turn of the century, when the United States assumed sovereignty over the Philippines at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. Yet these men were alike in but one respect—their mutual iron-willed determination to achieve independence for their country. Both worked faithfully and long to achieve this purpose, but in vastly different ways. Quezon was a fighter, a fiery fervent genius of oratory, who propounded his ideals of freedom with unforgettable drama. In sharp contrast, Osmena, equally unrelenting as a fighter for freedom, is notable for his astute patience and quiet tenaciousness. His record shows him as being consistently skilful in the art of composing differences and arranging compromises.

A PERSUASIVE SPEAKER.

A path toward independence was made smoother, and perhaps swifter, because of Osmena's ability to sway others to his way of thinking. Quezon was the driver, dominant

mpulsive ; Osmena, soft-voiced and unswerving. Some have doubted either man could have singly led the way toward independence, but together they were unbeatable. A man is judged by his words as well as his deeds. Osmena, from the time he was speaker of the First Philippine Assembly, propounded the ideals of democratic government with great determination. Strong as he was for independence, equally intense was his belief that only by close affiliation with the United States could the Philippines hope to achieve lasting freedom and security. Tracing the cultural history of his country, Osmena is quick to point out how this foundation makes it possible for Filipinos to work in amity with the western world.

"In the cultural field", said Osmena, "co-operation between the United States and the Philippines has a logical foundation in the fact that for over three centuries Filipino culture has been based on western ideals.........It is natural that intimate cultural relations should continue between the United States and the Philippines in the new era of freedom that lies ahead.

"Forty-five years of constructive association with America have afforded the Filipinos the opportunity to develop and prove their capacity for self-government, winning through peaceful negotiations, formal recognition of that capacity and a promise of independence. Four months of bitter fighting on Bataan, when American and Filipino soldiers died together, tested the strength of this title to independence and love of democratic ideals, and proved Filipino capacity to defend a free way of life.

"To-day we have America's pledge that Philippine independence will not only be established and protected, but also will become a consummate fact, as soon as the invaders are driven from Philippine soil, and free and democratic processes of government are restored."

To-day, as President of the Philippine Commonwealth Government, Osmena will realize that what lies ahead may prove even more difficult than the past. Isolated from his country because of Japanese occupation, Osmena works and plans with his Cabinet, his staff and United States Government officials for the liberation and subsequent rehabilitation of his ravaged homeland.

CONTROL OF PASSAGE BETWEEN LUZON AND FORMOSA.
STRATEGIC VALUE OF TACLOBAN.

(*From the Times*).

The political and moral aspects of General Mac Arthur's return to the Philippines tend to overshadow its real significance in the war against Japan.

Tacloban on the east coast of Leyte, where the Americans pushed in the largest convoy ever to have sailed the Pacific, will give the Allies airfields from which the rest of the Philippines may be won back. Those airfields in turn will give us control of the passage between Luzon and Formosa, the possession of which is vital to the enemy for holding all his island conquests to the south, including the precious oilfields in Borneo and Sumatra.

Nothing so spectacular has until now been attempted on the Pacific front, whether measured in the concentration of troops, length of convoy lines or assembly of naval and air power. Hundreds of vessels move more than 1,500 miles, over waters which for more than two years the Japanese could truthfully claim to be their sea. The convoy came from great bases in New Guinea which were scarcely completed when it was time to move out. The development of these bases in less than five months was a magnificent achievement in organization and supply.

Plainly the balance of sea power, and evidently the balance of air power also, is so preponderantly in the Allies, favour that the time is approaching when the Americans, if they choose, should be able to press home' their invasion to the shores of Japan itself. The Japanese are now faced with an ugly position, which they must have foreseen while being powerless to prevent it. If it was possible to land on Central Philippines, it should soon be possible for the Allies to soften and then to seize most valuable strategic parts of Luzon. Airfields there would mean control of the strait through Luzon and Formosa, which is the neck of the supply line to the South China sea.

ASSAULT ON JAPAN'S INNER DEFENCES.

ALLIED PLANS IN PACIFIC.

(*From the Daily Telegraph*).

A great assault on the vast territories dominated by Japan has begun and it is a double assault by sea.

In the east, General Mac Arthur has gained an invaluable foothold in Central Philippines and his troops are rapidly extending their bridgeheads. In the west, the British Eastern Fleet has carried out a sustained attack on the Nicobar Islands. These two assaults are linked together in the general strategic plan of assault on Japan.

It is only just over a year since Admiral Nimitz told a Press Conference at Pearl Harbour that the American Navy was going to cut a straight line through to the China coast. Since then the whole complex system of the Japanese outer defence line, through chains of islands, has been rolled up and the assault has begun on the inner defences. The key to the Pacific war must lie in that declaration of Admiral Nimitz.

Japanese militarism has so extended itself that it cannot be strong everywhere, and Japanese losses have resulted in the enemy being weak almost everywhere. Therein lies the reason for the double assault, nearly 2,000 miles apart in a direct line. It will prevent any effective concentration by the enemy.

SWELLING BRITAIN'S WAR PAUSE.

NATIONAL SAVE-AND-LEND SCHEME.

(*By Victoria Chappelle*).

There is hardly anybody in Britain who is not working to-day. Many thousands of her men and women are in the armed forces, of course, but millions are making munitions and ships and aeroplanes.

This means that they are earning good wages, although there is not much to buy, for the Government does not premit unnecessary articles to be made. There was a danger at one time, that many people with money to spend, would rush to buy the small quantity of the expensive goods still on sale, thus wasting it on things they did not really want.

To help prevent this, everyone in Britain was asked to lend to the Government all the money he or she could spare after providing for daily needs. It was pointed out that, in this way, people could help the country to pay for the war.

This was in 1940, when Britain thought she would have to fight Germany by herself. The people in Britain were so determined to win that money began to pour into the saving offices all over the country. The scheme grew very rapidly. To-day, residents in nearly every street, in every city and town and village have formed themselves into groups of collectors. Schools, offices, factories, even the armed forces, have their own savings groups.

From time to time special schemes are started. In one of these the whole country set out to buy as many tanks as possible, each city or town devoting a special work to the effort. The next scheme was called " Wings for Victory Week " and money poured in to buy aircraft. In one big city, the Government was loaned enough money to build a squadron of bombers ; another lent enough to build a squadron and a half.

Warships have been bought by the people in the same way, and many towns and cities have adopted the ships built by their people's savings. Then there was the biggest of all the special " weeks " started in Britain. It was called " Salute the Soldier " Week, and nearly every city or community put the target of its savings higher than ever. People were encouraged with celebrations and bands and processions. London alone saved many hundreds of millions of pounds to help equip part of the British army.

When the war is won, Britain will enjoy spending its money again. But, until then, the nation is content to do without everything but necessities, and to save and lend those savings to the nation in order to meet the daily cost of the war.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

(12) PART OF SCIENCE IN SHAPING INDIA'S FUTURE.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS' VISIT TO BRITAIN.

(From the Times).

The visit to this country of five distinguished Indian scientists is the result of action taken late last year by the Royal Society. Disturbed at the interruption of intellectual contacts by the war, the Royal Society took the unprecedented step of sending out Professor A. V. Hill to convene one of its meetings in Delhi. It is at his invitation, issued on behalf of the Society after some months work with his Indian colleagues, that a group of them are now in this country, and at the conclusion of their tour will go on to the United States.

What is projected is primarily intellectual co-operation on the highest level. India has suffered more than most countries from the rupture of normal contacts, because her science has come to her from the West and because her ablest workers have received Western training. There must be opportunities for exchange of ideas and facilities for oversea training of Indian students in an ample measure after the war, if the economic progress of India is to realise the expectations which have been raised. The war in the Far East, the place taken by India as the United Nations' principal military base, the equipment in India of a great army with all scientific weapons of modern war, and the immense efforts of Indian industry to take a worthy place in furnishing that equipment, have made Indian minds aware as never before of the part which science plays in the processes of modern civilisation. There has followed an acknowledgement of the part which it is to play in shaping India's own future.

Last March, a group of Bombay industrialists produced a 15-year plan to double the income of the population a head. The Government of India is itself working on a five-year plan as the first instalment of econmic and social development, and three months ago added a Planning Department to the Viceroy's Executive Council, of which Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who has had both administrative and commercial experience, has been placed in charge. Politics have entered into the discussion of the Bombay Plan. Politics is not the only field in which Indians seeking to serve their country at a critical moment

in its destinies can make helpful contact with Western, and particularly with British, thought.

Nor for that matter can co-operative progress in practical concerns be without influence on political developments. The whole world is looking forward to a period of scientifically inspired progress in human welfare, long possible but long held up through fear or the reality of war. No doubt, time has been lost in India, but never has the occasion been so favourable. The war has brought money to India. The reports which the men of science now here will make as a result of their mission can have, and ought to have, a direct bearing on the future of India's millions. With such a goal to be realised, matters of controversy should not be allowed to obstruct constructive thought, or to impede progressive action.

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PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CCXXII (*Batch 2*).

4-11-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
5-11-44	Puvarasakudi	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Venkatakulam	... 7.30 ,,
6-11-44	Vengalur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Konapattu	... 7.30 ,,
7-11-44	Panayappatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Rangiyam	... 7.30 ,,
8-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 11.00 ,,
8-11-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Kulipirai	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Sevalur	... 7.30 ,,
9-11-44	Kodumbalur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Viralur	... 7.30 ,,
10-11-44	Nachchandupatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Virachchilai	... 7.30 ,,

LECTURE CCXXIII (*Batch 3*).

11-11-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
12-11-44	Surakkadu	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Kottaikkadu	... 7.30 ,,
13-11-44	Tennatirayanpatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Visalur	... 7.30 ,,
14-11-44	Malaiyur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
15-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 11.00 ,,
15-11-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Ramachandrapuram	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Rayavaram	... 7.30 ,,
16-11-44	Viralimalai	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Poruvai	... 7.30 ,,
17-11-44	Valaramanikkam.	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Embal	... 7.30 ,,

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4—11—44	Vettamviduthi.
5—11—44	Embal.
7—11—44	Perambur.
9—11—44	Alangudi.
10—11—44	Pudukkottai.
11—11—44	Ponnamaravathi.
12—11—44	Tittanviduthi.
14—11—44	Vadakadu.
16—11—44	Kulipirai.
17—11—44	Pudukkottai.

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